

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 19, 2004. Claims 1-16, 36-51, and 71-86 are presented for examination. Claims 54-70 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be discussed further. Claims 1, 36, and 71, the independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 5-11, 36, 40-46, 71, and 75-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over publication "Sam's Teach Yourself Windows 95 in 10 Minutes" (*Windows 95*); Claims 2, 37, and 72 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,449,663 (*Carney et al.*); Claims 4, 39, and 74 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication "Windows NT Server 4 Unleashed, Second Edition" (*Windows NT*); Claims 3, 38, and 73 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication "The Complete Idiot's Guide To Windows 95" (*Guide*); and Claims 12-16, 47-51, and 82-86 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication "Image of Device Manager in Windows 95" (*Device Manager*).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 36, and 71 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus connected to a network, wherein the apparatus includes a communicating unit, a domain information acquiring unit, first, second, and third acquiring units, a storage unit, and a display unit that communicates information with each of a number of terminal devices on the network. The domain information acquiring unit acquires domain information of the network. The first acquiring unit performs an acquisition function to acquire first information, related to the terminal device connected to the network, through the communicating unit. The second acquiring unit performs an acquisition function to acquire second information, related to a peripheral device which is locally connected (and not connected through the network) to the terminal device to which the first information pertains, while the third acquiring unit also performs an acquisition function to acquire a use status of the peripheral device to which the second information pertains. The storage unit stores a data structure consisting of the domain information acquired in the domain information acquiring step, the first information acquired in the first acquiring step, the second information acquired in the second acquiring step and the use status of the peripheral device acquired in the third acquiring step. The data structure includes a domain part, one or more terminal device parts included in the domain part, and one or more peripheral parts included in the terminal part, where the number of existing terminal parts corresponds to the number of terminal devices acquired in the first acquiring step, and the number of existing peripheral parts corresponds to the number of peripheral devices acquired in the second acquiring step. The display unit displays information of the terminal device, whose first information is acquired by the first acquiring unit, connected to the network and information of the peripheral device, whose second information is

acquired by the second acquiring unit, locally connected to the terminal device without a user's operation based on the data structure stored in the storage unit. The first acquiring unit acquires the first information related to the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired by the domain information acquiring unit, and the display unit displays the information of the terminal device connected to the network in the domain corresponding to the domain information acquired by the domain information acquiring unit, the information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device and the use status thereof, based upon the first information acquired by the first acquiring unit, the second information acquired by the second acquiring unit, and the use status acquired by the third acquiring unit.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 is storing a data structure consisting of the domain information acquired in the domain information acquiring step, the first information acquired in the first acquiring step, the second information acquired in the second acquiring step and the use status of the peripheral device acquired in the third acquiring step, and that the data structure includes a domain part, one or more terminal device parts included in the domain part, and one or more peripheral parts included in the terminal part, where the number of existing terminal parts corresponds to the number of terminal devices acquired in the first acquiring step, and the number of existing peripheral parts corresponds to the number of peripheral devices acquired in the second acquiring step. Support for this feature may be found at least at page 9, line 6, to page 10, line 12, and Figure 4.¹

¹It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the
(continued...)

Windows 95 is cited for disclosing that an Explorer can display a server, a client PC, and a peripheral device connected to the PC. So that the Explorer can display the devices, it is necessary to acquire some information about the devices. However, Applicants have found nothing in *Windows 95* that would teach or suggest storing a data structure consisting of the domain information acquired in the domain information acquiring step, the first information acquired in the first acquiring step, the second information acquired in the second acquiring step and the use status of the peripheral device acquired in the third acquiring step, and that the data structure includes a domain part, one or more terminal device parts included in the domain part, and one or more peripheral parts included in the terminal part, where the number of existing terminal parts corresponds to the number of terminal devices acquired in the first acquiring step, and the number of existing peripheral parts corresponds to the number of peripheral devices acquired in the second acquiring step, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Windows 95*.

Independent Claims 36 and 71 are method and storage medium claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Windows 95* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of

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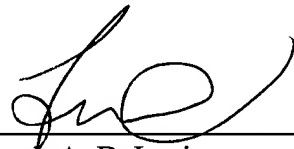
described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

the invention. However, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. DeLucia', written over a horizontal line.

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